



CATEX CHECKLIST

CHECKLIST OF EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES & SENSITIVE RESOURCES IN SUPPORT OF A CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CATEX) DETERMINATION FOR A DENALI COMMISSION PROJECT

Program Partner Name Alaska Village Electric Cooperative	Project Name St. Mary's to Mountain Village Intertie Project	
Location St. Mary's, Alaska	Project # 1423	Subproject # 9712653
Identify Categorical Exclusion The proposed project is identified in the Denali Commission list of categorical exclusions provided in 45 CFR Appendix A to Part 900. The appropriate paragraph number(s) is/are B4, B5, B6		

Project Description (2-3 sentences maximum)

This project provides for the construction of a new overhead electrical intertie to interconnect the electrical distribution systems in St. Mary's, Pitkas Point, and Mountain Village, Alaska. The project includes constructing 16.1 miles of new 3-phase power line and upgrading 5.5 miles of existing electrical distribution lines.

Instructions

The information you provide below will assist the Denali Commission in making its determination as to whether a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) is appropriate or further environmental analysis is required for the proposed project. Please place a checkmark in the blank next to the numbered items indicating your response on that issue. A checkmark in the "Yes" block does not automatically preclude the development of the proposed project. It simply means further assessment is needed. Should you have any remarks that may indicate the need to prepare an Environmental Analysis (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), attach a brief explanation of the circumstances for further evaluation. Adverse effects to environmentally sensitive resources must be resolved through another environmental process, e.g., coordination or consultation under the Coastal Zone Management Act or National Historic Preservation Act, before being categorically excluded. Attachments are allowed and encouraged.

Extraordinary Circumstances	Determination		Basis for determination: <i>See attached comments</i>
	Yes	No	
1. Public Health, Safety or Environment Will the proposed project have a reasonably likelihood of significant impacts on public health, public safety, or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project will improve the reliability and efficiency of power systems in three communities and have an overall beneficial effect on public safety. Further, the project will result in the decommissioning of one power plant and will centralize fuel storage for power generation in the region reducing emissions and the likelihood of spills.
2. Controversy on Environmental Grounds Will the proposed project have effects on the environment that are likely to be highly controversial or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The intertie alignment is primarily within existing ADOT or municipal Right of Way. Portions not within existing ROW are within designated easements on state and private lands. The proposed project is not considered to be controversial or conflicting in regards to available resources.

3. Uncertain, Unique or Unknown Risks Will the proposed project have possible effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain, involve unique or unknown risks, or are scientifically controversial?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project includes typical overhead power lines on wooden poles which present no uncertain, unique, or scientifically controversial risk to the public.
4. Precedent for Future Action Will the proposed action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed action interties multiple community electrical grids allowing a more efficient and reliable electrical power system. The reduction in fuel consumption and emissions will reduce current environmental impacts.
5. Cumulative Impacts Will the proposed project relate to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>The intertie project is part of a larger family of projects that includes the integration of wind power and a new, high-efficiency diesel power plant to serve the communities of St Mary's, Pitkas Point, and Mountain Village.</p> <p>The cumulative effect of the projects will be a decrease in diesel fuel consumption and safer fuel storage; positive impacts on the environment.</p>
6. Scope and Size Will the proposed project have a greater size and scope than is normal for the category of action?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed size and scope of this project is proportional in relation to other intertied Alaska communities of similar size and growth characteristics.
7. Environmental Conditions Will the proposed project have the potential to degrade already existing poor environmental conditions or to initiate a degrading influence, activity or effect in areas not already significantly modified from their natural condition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The intertie will be installed on poles that are buried directly in the ground. Holes will be augured wherever possible and construction will occur primarily in the wintertime when the ground is frozen. The intertie will be installed adjacent to the existing road between the communities. The roadway has already modified the environment from its original natural condition and the intertie will not further degrade the environment.
8. Environmental Justice Will the proposed project have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project will not adversely affect low income or minority populations. The proposed intertie will run

Ref: Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations			along the existing roadway through unoccupied areas between the communities.
9. Indian Sacred Sites Will the proposed project limit access to or ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites? (EO 13007) <i>"Indian tribe" means an Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges to exist as an Indian tribe pursuant to Public Law No. 103-454, 108 Stat. 4791, and "Indian" refers to a member of such an Indian tribe. (EO 13007)</i> Ref: Executive Order 13007, Indian Sacred Sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No Indian sacred sites will be affected by the proposed project.
Sensitive Resources	Impact Potential		Basis for determination: See attached comments
	Yes	No	
10. Section 106 Historic Properties Will the proposed project adversely affect properties in, or eligible for inclusion in, the Section 106 National Register of Historic Places? Ref: National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.), as amended. (See 36 CFR 800, Protection of Historic Properties).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was consulted as part of the USDA-RUS grant process the SHPO reviewed the proposed project and provided no objections in an April 18 th , 2017 letter.
11. Endangered Species Will the proposed project adversely affect species listed, or proposed to be listed on the Endangered or Threatened Species List, or the specific critical habitat? Ref: Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), as amended. (See 50 CFR part 402).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In a letter dated June 11, 2019 The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) lists no endangered or threatened species, or critical habitats (see attached).
12. Historic or Cultural Resources Will the proposed action adversely impact the historic and cultural environment of the Nation? Ref: Executive Order 11593, Protection and enhancement of the cultural environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	See discussion under "Item 10 – Section 106 Historic Properties" No sites, structures, or objects of historical, architectural, or archaeological significance will be affected by the proposed electrical intertie.
13. Park, Recreation or Refuge Lands Will the proposed project have significant adverse direct or indirect effects on National or State Park, Recreation or Refuge lands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project is not located within or adjacent to any National or State Parks, recreation lands, or refuges.
14. Wilderness Areas Will the proposed project adversely impact a wilderness area? Ref: Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), as amended.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project is not located within, and will not impact any wilderness areas.
15. Wild and Scenic Rivers Is the proposed project a "Water Resources Project" that will impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This project is not a water resources project and will not

<p>a wild, scenic or recreational river area and create conditions inconsistent with the character of the river?</p> <p>Ref: Wild & Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.), as amended.</p>			<p>impact wild, scenic, or recreational river areas.</p>
<p>16. National Natural Landmarks Will the proposed project impact a National Natural Landmark?</p> <p>Ref: Historic Sites Act of 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.), as amended.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Based on a review of the National Park Service National Natural Landmarks Website, the proposed project will not impact a National Natural Landmark.</p>
<p>17. Sole Source Aquifers If the proposed action would not have adverse effects on this resource, it may be considered that there is no Impact Potential.</p> <p>Ref: Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, (42 U.S.C. 201, 300 et seq., and 21 U.S.C. 349), as amended. (See 40 CFR part 149).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>According to the EPA website there are no sole source aquifers in Alaska.</p>
<p>18. Prime Farmlands Will the proposed project convert significant agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses?</p> <p>Ref: Farmlands Protection Policy Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.), as amended. (See 7 CFR part 658).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>The proposed project will not convert any agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses.</p>
<p>19. Wetlands Will the proposed project adversely affect wetlands or will there be construction in wetlands, except in conformance with a U.S. Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit?</p> <p>Ref: Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>The U.S Army Corps of Engineers issued a permit for discharge of fill into wetlands for this project (permit number POA-2016-546, see attached).</p>
<p>20. Floodplains Will the proposed project involve construction in a floodplain or impact floodplain development?</p> <p>Ref: Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>According to the FEMA Flood map service center, the proposed intertie is within an unmapped area. Based on the 2006 DCRA Community Profile Map and local topography, the intertie alignment is elevated above historic flood elevations.</p>
<p>21. National Monuments Will proposed project impact a National Monument?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>This project is not within proximity of any National Monuments.</p>

22. Ecologically Significant or Critical Areas Will the proposed project impact an ecologically significant or critical area?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed site is not near any known ecologically sensitive or critical areas.
23. Other Known Reasons Is an environmental assessment required for other known reasons?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No.
Additional Comments See attached documentation.				
Based upon the categorical exclusion identified above, this completed checklist and attachments, I certify to the best of my knowledge, that the information provided above is complete and correct, and that:				
A categorical exclusion determination is appropriate for this project:			Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Further environmental analysis is required:			Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PREPARED BY				
Date 6/11/19	Typed or Printed Name and Title Karl Hulse, P.E.	Signature <i>Karl Hulse</i>		
DENALI COMMISSION APPROVING OFFICIAL				
Date 6/13/19	Typed or Printed Name and Title John Whittington, General Counsel	Signature <i>John</i>		

Environmental Information and Documentation
Supplemental Instructions

Basis for Determination and Documentation

The basis for determination and documentation information must be traceable and establish the factual data to support the response to each question. Types of information to be included in this column are outlined below.

1. **PRINTED MATERIALS** These are useful sources of detailed information materials such as comprehensive land use plans, zoning maps, city master plans, environmental baseline surveys, environmental assessments, environmental impact statements and studies. Information must be current and must represent accepted methodologies, i.e., not so old that changing conditions make them irrelevant. Citations for the material should include enough information so that an outside reviewer can locate the specific reference, e.g., author, document title, publication date, and page number.

Examples include the Record of Decision, Finding of Suitability to Transfer, Finding of Suitability to Lease, General

Services Administration (GSA) Property Suitability Determination Form, Federal Property Information Checklist, Environmental Baseline Surveys, Preliminary Assessment Reports, Environmental Assessments, draft or final Environmental Impact Statements, and City/County master plan or zoning map.

Possible sources of the above documents include as appropriate, GSA, Department of Housing and Urban Development, the property owner, military base environmental office, local governmental organizations, local public library, and City/County planning office.

2. PERSONAL CONTACT Personal contacts are useful when the individual contacted is an accepted authority on the subject(s), and the interview is documented. Supporting documentation should include the name, organization, and title of the person contacted and the date of the conversation. Examples include EPA officials, EPA hotlines, officials from state or local planning offices and environmental offices, or an environmental officer of an agency.
3. SITE VISIT A site visit does not usually involve any testing or measurements. A site visit is an important method for initial screening of the issues, but for some of the categories it may be inadequate for final evaluation. Supporting documentation should include date of the site visit, by whom, and the supporting observation.

Pollution Prevention. The agency must include pollution prevention considerations in the siting, design, construction, renovation, and operation of the project or facility.

The questionnaire items on sedimentation and erosion control measures and storm water control plan are also pollution prevention related.



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION
Office of History & Archaeology

550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1310
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565
Main: 907.269.8721
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha>

April 18th, 2017

File No.: 3130-1R USDA-RUS
2017-00325

Steve Polacek
USDA-Rural Development
Rural Utilities Service
1400 Independence Ave SW, Room 2244
Stop 1571
Washington, D.C. 20250

SUBJECT: Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AVEC), Saint Mary's to Mountain Village Intertie Project, Finding of Effect

Dear Mr. Polacek:

The Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (AKSHPO) received your request for review and associated documentation on April 17th, 2017. Upon review, we concur that a finding of **no historic properties affected** is appropriate for the proposed undertaking.

As a reminder, should previously unidentified archaeological resources be discovered during the course of the project, work must be interrupted until the resources have been evaluated in terms of the National Register of Historic Places eligibility criteria (36 CFR 60.4) in consultation with our office.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. Please contact McKenzie Johnson at mckenzie.johnson@alaska.gov or 907-269-8726 if there are any questions or we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judith E. Bittner".

Judith E. Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer

JEB: msj



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Anchorage Fish And Wildlife Conservation Office
4700 Blm Road
Anchorage, AK 99507
Phone: (907) 271-2888 Fax: (907) 271-2786



In Reply Refer To:

June 11, 2019

Consultation Code: 07CAAN00-2019-SLI-0216

Event Code: 07CAAN00-2019-E-00591

Project Name: St Mary's to Mountain Village Electrical Intertie

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, and proposed species, designated critical habitat, and some candidate species that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Please note that candidate species are not included on this list. We encourage you to visit the following website to learn more about candidate species in your area: http://www.fws.gov/alaska/fisheries/fieldoffice/anchorage/endangered/candidate_conservation.htm

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered

species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan (http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle_guidance.html). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines (<http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/>) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm>; <http://www.towerkill.com>; and <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Anchorage Fish And Wildlife Conservation Office

4700 Blm Road

Anchorage, AK 99507

(907) 271-2888

Project Summary

Consultation Code: 07CAAN00-2019-SLI-0216

Event Code: 07CAAN00-2019-E-00591

Project Name: St Mary's to Mountain Village Electrical Intertie

Project Type: TRANSMISSION LINE

Project Description: Project includes 16.1 miles of new overhead electrical lines and 5.5 miles of upgraded electrical lines to connect St Mary's and Mountain Village electrical grids.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/62.08764599767342N163.30500429448068W>



Counties: Kusilvak, AK

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 0 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

Date: June 21, 2017

To: Forest Button, Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.

From: Robin Reich

Subject: St. Mary's to Mountain Village Intertie

The following is a summary of permitting requirements that need to be considered during and immediately following construction activities. The permit, included in Attachment A, should be consulted if more detailed information is needed.

Department of the Army (Wetlands) Permit (POA-2016-546; Nationwide Permit [NWP] #12)

Issued: June 15, 2017.

Expires: March 18, 2022 (when all NWPs expire)

Stipulations:

General Conditions

- Only clean fill material should be used for the project; free from trash, debris, automotive parts, asphalt, construction materials, concrete blocks with exposed reinforcement bars, and contaminated soils.
- Heavy equipment working in wetlands must be placed on mats, or other measures must be taken to minimize soil disturbance.
- Appropriate erosion and sediment controls must be used and maintained during construction and exposed soil stabilized at the earliest practicable date on portions of the site where construction activities have temporarily or permanently ceased.
- Temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations and revegetated, as appropriate.
- Any authorized structure or fill shall be properly maintained, including maintenance to ensure public safety and compliance with applicable NWP general conditions, as well as any activity-specific conditions added by the district engineer to an NWP authorization.
- All permitted actions must comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. If nests are discovered during construction, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must be contacted to determine the appropriate next steps. It is recommended that no vegetation clearing occur between May 1 and July 15 to avoid impacts to nesting birds.
- If any previously unknown historic, cultural, or archeological remains or artifacts are discovered, the district engineer (Matthew Beattie, 907-753-2791) must be notified and construction activities avoided in the area to the maximum extent practicable.

- Within 30 days of completion of the authorized activity, AVEC must provide a signed certification documenting completion. The certification document is included in Attachment B.

Regional Conditions

Regional Condition D

- Disturbed areas must be stabilized immediately following construction, as soon as site conditions allow and within the same growing season as the disturbance.
- Native vegetation and top soils removed for project construction should be stockpiled separately and used for rehabilitation.
- Except in areas of topsoil excavation, excavated soils must be sorted into mineral subsoils and topsoil, and stored separately. Topsoil should be placed as the uppermost layer when backfilling.
- If top soil and/or organic materials are not available from the project site for rehabilitation, other locally-obtained native materials may be used. Species used for seeding and planting must follow the order of preference: 1) species native to the site; 2) species native to the area; 3) species native to Alaska.

Regional Condition E

- Limits of disturbance should be clearly demarcated prior to commencement of construction activities, and maintained until construction is complete and soils have been stabilized. AVEC is prohibited from conducting any unauthorized Corps-related activity outside of the permitted limits of disturbance (as shown on the permit drawings).

Regional Condition F

- Natural drainage patterns will be maintained using appropriate ditching, culverts, and other measures to prevent ponding or drying. Excessive ponding or dewatering of areas adjacent to fill areas will be treated as permit non-compliance.

Regional Condition G

- Any relocated stream channels need to approximate the length, meander pattern, gradient, channel cross-section, substrate, and flow velocity of the original.

Attachment A: USACE Wetlands Permit POA-2016-546



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ALASKA DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
REGULATORY DIVISION
P.O. BOX 6898
JBER, AK 99506-0898

June 15, 2017

Regulatory Division
POA-2016-546

Mr. Forest Button
Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.
4831 Eagle Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Mr. Button:

This is in response to your October 27, 2016, application for a Department of the Army (DA) permit, to discharge fill material into a total of 0.107 acre of wetlands. Permanent impacts would occur with 450 direct set poles and fill material being placed into 0.07 acre of wetlands after 450 (24-inch to 30-inch holes) have been augered. Additionally, 135 six-foot by 2-foot trenches would be temporarily constructed and backfilled with anchors and fill material in another 0.037 acre of wetlands to stabilize poles at all corners, major crossings, and at periodic intervals in order to construct the St. Mary's to Mt. Village electrical intertie. It has been assigned file number POA-2016-546, Yukon River, which should be referred to in all future correspondence with this office. The project site is located within Sections 19 & 26-30, T. 23 N., R. 76 W., Sections 6-10, 115, & 24, 26-30, T. 23 N., R. 77 W., Sections 1, & 7-12, T. 23 N., R. 78 W., and Sections 11, 12, & 14, T. 23 N., R. 79 W., Seward Meridian; USGS Quad Maps Kwiguk A-3 and A-4; the project would start at Latitude 62.040181° N., Longitude 163.240548° W in Saint Mary's; and end at Latitude 62.085525° N., Longitude 163.729248° W. in Mountain Village, Bethel Borough, between Mountain Village and St. Mary's, Alaska.

Based on our review of the information you furnished and available to us, we have **preliminarily** determined the above project area contains waters of the United States (U.S.), including wetlands, under the Corps' regulatory jurisdiction.

DA permit authorization is necessary because your project would involve work in and placement of structures and fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, under our regulatory jurisdiction.

Based upon the information and plans you provided, we hereby verify that the work described above, which would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1, E1-E30), dated May 23, 2017, is authorized by Nationwide Permit (NWP) No. 12, Utility Line Activities. NWP No. 12 and its associated Regional and General Conditions can be accessed at our website at: www.poa.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits.aspx. Regional Conditions **D, E, F, G, & H** apply to your project. You must comply with all terms and conditions associated with NWP No. 12.

Further, please note General Condition 30 requires that you submit a signed certification to us once any work and required mitigation are completed. Enclosed is the form for you to complete and return to us.

Unless this NWP is modified or revoked, it expires on March 19, 2022. If you commence or are under contract to commence work before March 19, 2022, you will have twelve (12) months to complete the activity. It is incumbent upon you to remain informed of the changes to the NWPs. Nothing in this letter excuses you from compliance with other Federal, State, or local statutes, ordinances, or regulations.

Please contact me via email at mary.r.romero@usace.army.mil, by mail at the address above, by phone at (907) 753-2773, or toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, if you have questions or to request paper copies of the regional and/or general conditions. For more information about the Regulatory Program, please visit our website at <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.

Sincerely,

Mary Romero
Project Manager

Enclosures

CF: North Branch

ADEC

ADEC

ADF&G-DH, Fairbanks

ADNR-DMLW, Anchorage

ADNR-DMLW, Fairbanks (north of AK Range)

ADNR-DMLW, Fairbanks (north of AK Range)

ADNR-DMLW

SHPO, ADNR OHA

EPA

USFWS

james.rypkema@alaska.gov

shannon.dewandel@alaska.gov

audra.braser@alaska.gov

dnr.scro.dcom.cor@alaska.gov

jeanne.proulx@alaska.gov

julie.smith@alaska.gov

jusdi.mcdonald@alaska.gov

oha.revcomp@alaska.gov

AOOARU.R10@epamail.epa.gov

FW7_POANotices@fws.gov

fbutton@avec.org; robin@solsticeak.com; carrie@solsticeak.com

Regional Environmental and Energy Office – Southern (REEO-S)

Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army

Installations, Energy, and Environmental – ASAIEE

200 Westpark Drive, Suite 140

Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

Attachment B: USACE Certification Form

ENCLOSURE



**US Army Corps of Engineers
Alaska District**

Permit Number: POA-2016-546

Name of Permittee: Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Date of Issuance: June 15, 2017

Upon completion of the activity authorized by this permit and any mitigation required by the permit, sign this certification and return it to Ms. Romero at the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Alaska District
Regulatory Division
Post Office Box 6898
JBER, Alaska 99506-0898

Please note that your permitted activity is subject to a compliance inspection by an U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representative. If you fail to comply with this permit you are subject to permit suspension, modification, or revocation.

I hereby certify that the work authorized by the above-referenced permit has been completed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the said permit, and required mitigation was completed in accordance with the permit conditions.

Signature of Permittee

Date